MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSOR ALVIN L. THRONE

Alvin L. Throne, Emeritus Professor of Botany, died of cancer on March 4, 1975, at the age of 78. When he retired in January, 1965, he had completed 39 years of teaching botany and biology courses at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and its predecessor institutions.

Professor Throne was born in Milwaukee on January 5, 1897 and completed his elementary and secondary schooling here. He attended the Wisconsin Normal School (Milwaukee) from 1916 to 1917 and, after a term in military service from 1918 to 1919, he returned and obtained a teaching certificate in 1921. From 1921-23, he continued his education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a B.S. degree in 1927. He took graduate courses on a part-time basis at Marquette University and at the University of Michigan from 1929-32 and obtained the M.S. degree from the latter university in 1936.

His academic career began as a high school biology teacher in Monroe, Wisconsin in 1923-24, and was followed by an appointment as lecturer at the Milwaukee Public Museum, 1924-25. In 1926, he joined the staff of the Wisconsin State Teachers College, Milwaukee. He witnessed the transformation of this college to the Wisconsin State College, Milwaukee, and by merger with the Milwaukee Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin, in 1956, to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

His career throughout this long association was one of distinguished service. He served on numerous committees, including the directorship of the Unclassified Division in the Wisconsin State College (incorporated into the College of Letters in Science in 1956). After the establishment of UWM, his interest and leadership in field biology programs was recognized by the Chancellor, who appointed him chairman of the UWM Arboretum Committee (now renamed the UWM Field Station Committee). Under his chairmanship the committee undertook the task of acquiring an outdoor educational and research area. With the cooperation of the Nature Conservancy this project became a reality when a suitable tract of land was purchased adjacent to the Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County. Professor Throne retired before the laboratory and other improvements were completed; however, he did see the results of the tremendous time and effort he devoted to this project.

Although affiliated with the Department of Botany, Professor Throne's interests were in a variety of biological disciplines. He taught courses and published articles in the fields of ornithology, entomology, general botany and in plant identification. He took pride in his teaching and his courses were always well-organized and his lectures stimulating. He believed students should have an intimate contact with natural biotic communities and many of his students will vividly recall tramping through marshes and bogs or stomping through deep snow to see a variety of bird life, insects and plant assemblages. He was skillful in unfolding details of animal and bird behavior from tracks, droppings and browsing effects on various plants. His analyses and presentations were so vivid and informative that students not only praised his teaching but many were stimulated to enter careers in biology. In his courses he maintained high standards of scholarship, but was always concerned with students as individuals. All of his students have remained life-long friends.
During vacations he travelled extensively in Wisconsin, Michigan, western United States, Canada and Alaska and collected thousands of insect and plant specimens. Most of his plants are in the UWM Herbarium. He also spent one summer as a Ranger Naturalist at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Professor Throne was affiliated with a number of professional organizations including: American Ornithologist's Union, Wilson Ornithological Society, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (President, 1940), American Society of Plant Taxonomists, New England Botanical Society, Lepidopterist Society of America, Milwaukee Entomological Society (President, 1938, 1944, and 1951), Izaak Walton League of America (President, Milwaukee Chapter, 1935), Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. He was the recipient of several honors and special appointments which included membership in Phi Kappa Phi and the Society of Sigma Xi, appointment to the State Board for the Preservation of Scientific Areas (1951-56), election as Vice-president (Sciences) of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters (1962), and appointment to the honorary position of Research Associate in Ecology by the Board of Trustees of the Milwaukee Public Museum (1963).

Professor Throne is survived by his wife, Thelma, his daughters Nancy (Mrs. Robert Brunner) and Sue (Mrs. Dennis Buchert) and his sisters May Throne, Isabel Throne, Lulu Throne and Carol (Mrs. Caesar Auerbach). To these persons, his colleagues, associates and friends at UWM extend their sincere sympathy and their appreciation for his service to this university.

Ernest Bellis
Millicent Ficken
Lee Mathews
Peter Salamon (Chairman)
Philip Whitford